

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CU-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07
L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 DODE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JGHUFF
APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN
EUR/SOV:JWILKINSON
EUR/EE:CSCHMIDT
CU/EE:YRICHMOND
EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
C:RHOPPER
S/S:MR. REDDY

-----231914Z 097160 /43

R 230041Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE

SUBJECT: US CSCE PROPOSAL FOR ALLIED CONSIDERATION

REF: STATE 304584 (DEC 76)
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1. AS PROMISED IN MARCH CSCE EXPERTS' MEETING AND
REFERRED TO IN ISD146 (CM-77(29)), PARA 2 CONTAINS AN
ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE TABLING AT BELGRADE
WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT FOR ALLIED CONSIDERATION.
AT NEXT POLADS, MISSION SHOULD CIRCULATE PROPOSAL AND
SHOULD STATE THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ALLIED

COMMENTS. MISSION SHOULD NOTE THAT OUR SUBMISSION OF THIS NEW PROPOSAL FOR ALLIED CONSIDERATION DOES NOT ALTER OUR VIEW THAT ALLIES SHOULD ADVANCE ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT BELGRADE. MISSION SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT WE WOULD HOPE THAT ALLIES WILL CONSIDER NEW PROPOSAL ON "ARCHIVAL ACCESS" ON ITS OWN MERITS, THEN TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO DEVELOPING LIST OF POSSIBLE NEW PROPOSALS IN PRIORITY ORDER OF IMPORTANCE AND ACCEPTABILITY.

2. THE FINAL ACT CALLS UPON THE SIGNATORY STATES TO GRANT SCHOLARS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS "THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE RELEVANT SCHOLARLY, SCIENTIFIC AND OPEN ARCHIVAL

MATERIALS", AND TO FACILITATE "THEIR TRAVEL WITHIN THE RECEIVING STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDY OR RESEARCH."

THE EXPERIENCE OF AMERICANS IN THE SOVIET UNION SHOWS THAT OBSTACLES STILL EXIST WHICH IMPEDE ACCESS:

A) THE LACK OF AN OFFICIAL, PUBLISHED, AND COMPLETE LISTING OF ARCHIVAL INSTITUTIONS, BOTH OPEN AND CLOSED.

B) IMPEDED ACCESS TO "FINDING AIDS,": THE INVENTORIES AND CATALOGUES WHICH DESCRIBE THE ACTUAL ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS. ACCESS IS IMPEDED IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, THE INVENTORIES ARE NOT PUBLISHED AND DISSEMINATED TO THE PUBLIC. SECOND, SOVIET ARCHIVISTS OFTEN DO NOT LET RESEARCHERS LOOK AT THE FINDING AIDS ONCE THESE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESEARCHERS ARRIVE AT THE ARCHIVE. A COMMON PRACTICE IS FOR THE ARCHIVIST TO ASK THE RESEARCHER WHAT HE IS WORKING ON. THEN, THE ARCHIVIST SELECTS WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE RELEVANT HOLDINGS. THE RESEARCHER IS GIVEN PARTIAL ARCHIVAL MATERIALS, NEVER HAVING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A COMPLETE INVENTORY AND TO SELECT FOR HIMSELF THE MATERIALS HE WANTS TO SEE.

C) RESTRICTED TRAVEL WITHIN THE USSR TO VISIT ARCHIVAL INSTITUTIONS.

D) AN UNWILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET SPONSORS OF AMERICAN RESEARCHERS TO AID THEM IN OBTAINING ARCHIVAL ACCESS. THESE SPONSORS SOMETIMES REFUSE TO SIGN THE NECESSARY ACCESS PAPERS FOR THEIR AMERICAN UNDERLINGS.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ARCHIVAL INITIATIVE WOULD SERVE THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

A) PROVIDE STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS, AND SCHOLARS THE BASIC INFORMATION NEEDED TO PLAN THEIR WORK: WHICH ARCHIVAL INSTITUTIONS EXIST AND ARE OPEN; BEFOREHAND OR ON THE SPOT ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL HOLDING DESCRIPTIONS (FINDING AIDS) SO THAT THE RESEARCHER KNOWS WHAT MATERIALS EXIST, AND IF THE MATERIALS ARE OPEN, WHAT HE IS ENTITLED TO HAVE ACCESS TO.

B) AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LISTING OF OPEN AND CLOSED ARCHIVES WILL AID SCHOLARS IN OVERCOMING PRESENT ARBITRARY DENIALS OF ACCESS TO OPEN ARCHIVES. INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARCHIVAL HOLDING INVENTORIES (FINDING AIDS) WOULD IMPROVE DIRECT ACCESS TO SPECIFIC OPEN ARCHIVAL MATERIALS.

C) A STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THE NEED FOR UNIMPEDED ACCESS
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MIGHT ENCOURAGE TRAVEL WITHIN THE USSR FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING OPEN ARCHIVES.

D) FIELD ACCESS--CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE AND MATERIALS WHICH LIE OUTSIDE THE CONVENTIONAL "EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS" REFERRED TO IN THE FINAL ACT--WOULD BE PROMOTED. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF NEW TRENDS IN SCHOLARLY RESEARCH (SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, ECONOMICS) WHICH REQUIRE ACCESS TO NON-TRADITIONAL SOVIET RESOURCES.

E) A STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THE NEED FOR SCHOLARS TO HAVE UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO OPEN ARCHIVES WILL HELP TO OVERCOME THE ROADBLOCKS POSED BY SOVIET SPONSORS.

DRAFT TEXT:

THE PARTICIPATING STATES

-- BEARING IN MIND THE FINAL ACT'S PROVISIONS TO GRANT SCHOLARS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE RELEVANT SCHOLARLY, SCIENTIFIC AND OPEN ARCHIVAL MATERIALS, AND TO FACILITATE THEIR TRAVEL WITHIN THE RECEIVING STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDY OR RESEARCH;

-- CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT FREE AND UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO THESE MATERIALS IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH GENUINE RESEARCH IS BASED;

-- EXPRESS TO THESE ENDS THEIR INTENTION IN PARTICULAR:

-- TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO GRANT SCHOLARS,
TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO OPEN ARCHIVES;

-- TO COMPILE AN ARCHIVAL DIRECTORY COMPRISED OF COMPLETE
LISTS OF OPEN AND CLOSED STATE ARCHIVES;
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-- TO PUBLISH AND PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL
FINDING AIDS: THE INVENTORIES AND CATALOGUES WHICH
DESCRIBE THE HOLDINGS OF OPEN STATE ARCHIVES;

-- TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE FIELD ACCESS, THAT IS,
DIRECT CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATION WITH PEOPLE AND
MATERIALS WHICH LIE OUTSIDE CONVENTIONAL EDUCATIONAL,
CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS, ECONOMIC PLANNERS AND ENTERPRISES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE091829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JGHUFF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770142-1065
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770426/aaaaavxk.tel
Line Count: 194
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67ed16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 304584
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2713906
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US CSCE PROPOSAL FOR ALLIED CONSIDERATION
TAGS: PFOR, US, CSCE
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67ed16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009